

expenditure with a view to taking corrective action. Instructions for containing the non-productive expenditure have been issued from time to time.

Over Drafts of North-Eastern States

233. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of overdraft of each State of North-Eastern Region;
- (b) how far Government would extend possible help to tide over the present critical financial position of the States; and
- (c) what is Government's decision regarding the proposal of CMs of North-Eastern States in respect of reversion to the pre-1988-89 pattern of ACA for bridging the non-plan revenue gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Transactions between a State and RBI are conducted as per agreement between the two. Since it is a matter of relationship between the banker and client (RBI and State Govt.) the information about the overdraft on their accounts with RBI is not published/made public by Government of India.

(b) As a temporary measure, Government of India makes advance releases of the State's monthly entitlements and provides ways and means advances, if needed, to the States to bail them out of overdraft. As advised by Government of India some of the North-Eastern States who are facing acute financial problems, have initiated a process of fiscal reform which envisages formulation and implementation of credible and monitorable programme to achieve fiscal stability. Extended ways and means advance have been given during 1999-2000 to the following North-Eastern States and Sikkim.

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	State	Amount
i	Assam	300.00
ii	Manipur	50.00
iii	Mizoram	100.00
iv	Nagaland	75.00
v	Sikkim	25.00

(c) Allocation of non-plan revenue assistance is done on the basis of recommendation of the Finance Commission.

Ban on recruitment in Regional Rural Banks

234. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken with regard to withdrawal of "Ban on recruitment" in Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) The ban on recruitment in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), which was imposed due to their precarious financial condition, is still continuing. However, a Working Group to study and evolve long term scientific staffing norms for RRBs had been constituted by the Government. The Working Group has recently submitted its report to the Government. A decision to lift the ban or otherwise would be taken after examination of the Report of the Working Group.

Limit on Bonus

235. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the limit of Bonus in respect of workers and employees of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The proposal to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 so as to raise the eligibility limit and calculation ceiling is under consideration of the Government in the Ministry of Labour.

Departmental Exam for JMGS-I in SBI

236. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY:

SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: